San Diego County, Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to Partner on GPS Tracking Device for High Risk Parolees

Working in cooperation with law enforcement in San Diego County, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) will immediately expand its global positioning satellite pilot in San Diego, CDCR Secretary Roderick Q. Hickman announced today.

"We anticipate that more than 70 high-risk sex offender parolees will be issued these electronic bracelets to make it easier for San Diego law enforcement agencies to track their whereabouts," said Hickman, Secretary of the CDCR. "This pilot serves as a perfect example of the state's commitment to enhancing public safety, while using innovative technology that can be monitored by multiple law enforcement agencies."

"We have promised State Parole, and we promise the community, our office will aggressively prosecute any sex offender parolee who violates any law in San Diego County," San Diego District Attorney Bonnie M. Dumanis said. "Our joint goal is to stop sex offenders from reoffending."

"The community of San Diego will be safer as we work with State Parole and District Attorney Bonnie Dumanis to utilize new technology to monitor and track high risk sex offenders," said San Diego police Chief William Lansdowne.

Beginning July 1, the CDCR began issuing an anticipated 500 global positioning system electronic bracelets statewide for parolees identified with backgrounds including sex offenders, domestic violence/stalking, gang members, violent offenders and offenders identified by local law enforcement as being involved in major crimes.

Hickman added that there have been 18 units activated to date in San Diego County. Law enforcement will supervise the rollout of another 62 GPS units in San Diego County through July.

This pilot is consistent with the CDCR's commitment to using evidence-based approaches toward public safety. Once these GPS bracelets are issued, state and local law enforcement officials will monitor the system for 30 days before rolling out into other counties statewide.

Background on GPS systems: What differentiates this program from the electronic bracelet program is the ability to map the locations a specific parolee has traveled to and the ability to interface with local law enforcement. The value of this technology is that it allows agencies real time information on the whereabouts of a probationer or parolee. Electronic monitoring is passive, and only gives information to the police agency, after the violation has occurred.